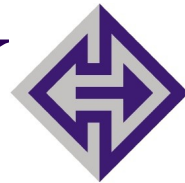


CROSSTALK

The Journal of Defense Software Engineering



AUTHOR GUIDELINES

CROSSTALK, The Journal of Defense Software Engineering,
is an approved Department of Defense journal.

Our mission is to encourage the engineering development of software in order to improve the reliability, sustainability, and responsiveness of our war-fighting capability, as well as to inform and educate readers on policy decisions and new software engineering technologies.

Published by the Software Technology Support Center, CROSSTALK is circulated monthly to more than 23,000 members of the defense software community, industry, and academic world.

Additionally, more than 300,000 monthly readers access both current and past issues on the journal's searchable database via the Internet.

In its 21-year history, CROSSTALK has become a respected and trusted resource within the defense software community. Thanks to the support of its authors, the journal has consistently provided useful and valuable information to its readers.



**CROSSTALK
NOTE**

CROSSTALK
has been
informing and
educating
readers since
1988.

Today,
CROSSTALK is
read by more
than 23,000
subscribers and
300,000 online
readers.

CROSSTALK publishes many types of articles that relate to software development. Articles that address the defense software community are of special interest, but we also consider articles that deal with government software development or the software industry at large.

Here are examples of some typical **CROSSTALK** categories:

Articles with overviews from emerging or established fields



Fresh information within a specific field of interest



Technical papers



Articles from the perspective of people "in the trenches"



Tutorials about software engineering methods and concepts



Lessons learned

CROSSTALK typically provides features that cover a variety of important software-related areas.

Here are some topics often found in CROSSTALK:

Software Engineering Technology

Articles that address software technology adoption, application, and new developments.

Policies, News and Updates

Articles that reflect the latest DoD policies, decisions, and management directives.

Open Forum

Articles that provide an opportunity to see firsthand how a new trend or technology affects a project.

Best Practices

Lessons learned from individuals making practical use of software technologies.

SUBMISSION PREPARATION

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE ORIGINAL



CROSSTALK TIP

Be sure to attach all the required elements with your submission and put them in the proper format. This will speed up the process for potential publication.



CROSSTALK TIP

The strongest submissions tend to come from authors who first ask their peers to review their articles for content and clarity.

Title

Titles should be concise, specific, and informative, contain key points of the work, and be less than 10 words.

Text Format

Articles can be submitted in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Text Length

Articles should be no longer than 3,000 words, including tables and figures.

Style

Authors are encouraged to follow *The Associated Press Stylebook* in keeping with the guide used by the staff when editing the journal. Only include essential formatting such as clear section headings and italics. If there is an issue not covered in the stylebook, we recommend checking AP's online database at www.apstylebook.com/ask_editor.php.

SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS

1. Abstract

Summarize your article in a way that hooks the reader's attention in a two-to-four sentence paragraph.

2. Software Defense Application

A paragraph that illustrates applicability of the article's central ideas, concepts, or processes for use in the DoD software community. It should be no longer than 75 words and include a demonstrative return on investment, process improvement, quality improvement, reductions to schedule, or other captured improvements using metrics and data. This is required for all submissions with the exception of Open Forum, BackTalk, and Letter to the Editor.

3. Author Photograph

This picture should be of the authors head-and-shoulders. The resolution should be at least 300 dpi, and have a .tif or .eps extension. **If your photo is embedded in your article, a separate file is required to be submitted.**

4. Author Biography

This should be no longer than 75 words outlining the author's job, background, professional accomplishments, education, and other pertinent accolades or areas of interest.

5. Contact Information

The author must include his/her complete business address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

6. Figures and Tables

Figures and tables should be publication-worthy upon submission. Since we do not publish in color, convert all color graphics to black-and-white and ensure that they still convey the same intent.

If graphics are embedded, separate files are also required with an .eps or .jpg extension.

Additionally, screen captures and Microsoft PowerPoint slides are too low of a resolution to reproduce at press quality. If you choose to use either, they must be saved at a high resolution (300 dpi) and have a .tiff extension.

Number and name figures and tables appropriately, and indicate where they should be placed in the text.

CROSSTALK reserves the right to reject graphics that are not production-ready, are redundant to the material, and/or do not add to the reader's understanding.

7. References and Notes

Authors are responsible for providing complete information for their references and should double check the reference numbers against their references to ensure complete accuracy prior to submission.

Most articles require some references, and some contain incidental information best treated as notes.

In the body of the article, use brackets for references and superscripts for notes, then list the two groups separately at the end of the article. These should be numbered in the order they appear in the article.

Format references using the *MLA Handbook*. For those without this book, utilizing the MLA function at www.easybib.com is recommended. Here are a few examples:

Book: Humphrey, Watts S. TSP: Coaching Development Teams. New York: Addison-Wesley Professional, 2006.

Journal: Blanco, Marina, et al. "SPI Patterns: Learning From Experience." 18.3 IEEE Software (May/June 2001): 28-35.

Conference Proceedings: Jensen, Randall W. The Problem with Software. Proc. of the 20th Annual Systems & Software Technology. Las Vegas, 2008.

8. Additional Reading

Our readers appreciate pointers to relevant books and articles. List these at the end of the article in the same format as references.

Originality

All submissions must be original.

Articles should not have been published previously in another magazine or journal, nor have been available in a final version on a publicly available Web site. However, if work described in conference proceedings is substantially revised, it will be considered.

Submission of an article represents certification by the author that the article is not being considered nor has been published elsewhere.

Please note that sections of previously published white papers, case studies, point papers, and technical reports may appear verbatim within an original article, providing each is referenced correctly.

Letters to the Editor / Open Forum / BackTalk

For Letters to the Editor, please include your name, phone number, and e-mail address. We reserve the right to edit for style, length, and content in all cases.

Open Forum is reserved for opinion pieces with non-technical slants, but are related to software engineering.

BackTalk articles should provide a concise, humorous, or satirical yet insightful look at the software engineering profession. BackTalk articles should be entertaining and clever or original in concept, design, or delivery. The length should not exceed 750 words.

Copyrights / Releases

Authors retain ownership of their articles printed in CROSSTALK.

If an author(s) requests that a copyright notation be included within his/her article, then he/she must provide a signed, documented letter declaring that the copyright note is indeed correct (no e-mails will be accepted).

The author(s) is responsible for ensuring the correctness of the copyright notation on his/her article. Any changes in the copyright notation from the time the article was submitted must be provided in writing when the author(s) receives an edited copy of their final article to proof for accuracy. If an article requires approval from a corporate or government public affairs office or security agency prior to publication, the author must do this *before* submitting to CROSSTALK.

The author is responsible for obtaining any required organizational clearances.

CROSSTALK asks that publications reprinting material from our journal provide a credit line.

Publication Process

All articles submitted to CROSSTALK are subject to our editorial review process and may be changed to fit the style of our journal.

Check the theme calendar for article submission deadlines to ensure timely review by the CROSSTALK Editorial Board (CEB).

The following is the process for an article considered for publication in CROSSTALK:

1. The article—containing all required elements previously mentioned—is submitted.
2. The article is reviewed by at least two CEB members comprised of engineers with expertise in the topic area.
3. Within two weeks after the CEB, the author is contacted regarding the article's status.
4. The CROSSTALK staff edits for style and clarity. The author may be asked to make additional changes or to perform small amounts of additional writing.
5. The author is notified that his/her article has been placed on a preliminary publishing line-up.
6. The author receives an edited and laid-out copy of the article in a PDF file to proof for accuracy. It is too late, at this point, for authors to make major additions or revisions.

After Publication

Upon publication, each author will receive 10 complimentary copies of the journal in which their article appears.



CROSSTALK TIP

First, make your article useful to your target audience, then make it accessible to people less familiar with the subject's terms and concepts.

Ratings

EP (Edit and Publish)

Articles that are technically sound and are recommended for publication.

RP (Revise and Publish)

Articles that require additional information or corrections. If corrected to publisher's satisfaction, it does not go through the CEB again.

RR (Rework and Resubmit)

Articles that require substantial additions or corrections. These articles are reviewed again by the CEB if resubmitted.

R (Reject)

Articles that are not appropriate for CROSSTALK.